



WRENTHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent
120 Taunton Street
Wrentham, MA 02093

Allan W. Cameron, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Superintendent's Bulletin Fall of 2019

Dear WPS Community,

I hope you are doing well! We are about 30% done with the 2019-2020 school year. The students are learning new knowledge and skills and having fun. Below are some highlights from the first few months of school, grouped by strategic objective (strategic objectives are 5-year goals).

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Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for improvement. Thanks for your support of Wrentham Public Schools!

Yours truly,

Allan Cameron
Superintendent of Wrentham Public Schools
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Core Values

Respect • Communication • Collaboration • Responsibility • Continuous Growth and Learning

OBJECTIVE 1: Foster a Culture of Continuous Growth and Learning

Massachusetts Students Score Highest in the Nation on NAEP

According to the [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(ESE\)](#), “The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), first administered in 1969, is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The results of NAEP are released on [The Nation's Report Card](#).” Every year, a sample of public school students in grades 4 and 8 take a series of tests to assess their achievement and growth. Once again, students from Massachusetts did very well. [You can see all of the results here](#).

2019 State Comparisons

Grade 4

Math: #1 (tied with Minnesota)

Reading: #1

Grade 8

Math: #1

Reading: #1

We should be very proud of our students for their excellent work. Wrentham students performed higher than the state average on our state tests (MCAS), and our state's students scored higher than the other states on the national tests (NAEP). Our students and their teachers are amazing! Thank you for supporting our exceptional public education system.

Results of the 2019 MCAS Tests

Last spring, Massachusetts public school students in grades 3 through 8 took the Next Generation MCAS, a series of tests that measure understanding of the skills and concepts taught in English/language arts and math. Students in grade 5 also took the science and technology/engineering MCAS.

[Wrentham students did very well on the 2019 MCAS](#). Their performance scores exceeded the state averages on almost every standard and were among the highest in the region. Here are some specifics:

- 71% of Wrentham students exceeded or met achievement expectations on the English/Language Arts tests. The state average was 53%.
- 60% of Wrentham students exceeded or met expectations on the Math tests. The state average was 50%.
- 66% of Wrentham students exceeded or met achievement expectations on the Science and Technology/Engineering test. The state average was 49%.

Our students perform well on MCAS, and continue to learn and grow, for several reasons. They work very hard; they have excellent teachers, principals, and staff members; they have supportive

and caring families; and they live in a town that values public education. Our entire community should take pride in their success.

Professional Development Goals

The people who work for Wrentham Public Schools are outstanding professionals. One reason for this is their commitment to their professional growth. Every school year, all staff members participate in workshops focused on shared professional development goals. The three major professional development goals for this year are school safety, social-emotional learning, and mathematics.

- **School Safety:** We are training on the response procedures for a fire, medical emergency and active intruder.
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** We are training on [Responsive Classroom](#), the social competency program used in all classrooms in the district. Many staff members are also participating in a professional book group on *Solving Thorny Behavior Problems* by Caltha Crowe.
- **Math:** We are learning about the [Developing Mathematical Ideas \(DMI\) modules](#). DMI helps students probe deeply into their thinking about mathematical concepts.

In addition to working on the major professional development goals, all staff members have individual goals based on interests and unique areas of growth. This approach to professional development ensures that all staff members are able to support the diverse learning needs of our students.

Report Cards and Conferences

The district has been updating our report cards over the past five years. Our goal is to provide each student's parents or guardians with specific information about the student's mastery of the standards taught in each grade. We created a [Report Card Brochure](#) that outlines the changes to the report cards and provides answers to frequently asked questions.

We will send the first report cards of the school year home with students on Tuesday, December 3. Conferences will take place on Wednesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 5. At the conference, your child's teacher will discuss your child's strengths, areas of growth, and goals. Please bring any questions or concerns you have about your child's report card to the conference.

Objective 2: Strengthen Family and Community Partnerships

Wrentham Public Schools Community Survey

Every school year, the School Committee and I send a survey to the community to help us understand what the district does well and what we should improve. We have made several changes to the district based on survey feedback, from building new playgrounds to adding new curricular resources to changing bus stops and routes. Your voice matters! I hope you will take a few minutes to [complete this short and anonymous Community Survey](#) about the school district. You may get a paper copy of the survey in the superintendent's office in the Janelli Annex. We will discuss the survey results and next steps at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

Wrentham Technology Task Force Survey

The district's Technology Task Force is developing a new five-year Technology Plan. We need your input to do this effectively. Please consider completing our [Community Technology Survey](#). Your feedback is truly valued and greatly appreciated!

Wrentham Welcome Wagon

Wrentham is a wonderful, close-knit community that attracts new families from around the world. To help those new families learn about our town and schools, the district created the WPS Welcome Wagon. We were fortunate to have 36 families volunteer to serve as hosts for families new to our community. In fact, we have more hosts than new families! The host families help the new families feel welcome in Wrentham, learn about important processes and events within Wrentham Public Schools, and to make connections with other community members. We are pleased with the success of the Welcome Wagon and are excited to continue the program in the future.

PTO and WEST Updates

The Wrentham Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Wrentham Elementary Schools Trust, Inc. (WEST) are two parent-led organizations that support Wrentham Public Schools. They have different but complementary missions that enhance the learning of our students. Both groups are dependent on parent volunteers. Volunteering time to the PTO or WEST (or both!) is a great way to have a direct and positive impact on Delaney and Roderick Schools.

PTO Update by PTO President Katelyn Clough

The PTO has had a GREAT fall! We kicked off our year with a very well attended Meet and Greet Picnic with the Big Freezy Ice Truck! We celebrated our awesome custodians on Custodial Worker's Day in October with some adorable cards from our students and a special gift. At the end of October, we had our Halloween Bash for our youngest students and it was a super fun night! Thank you to everyone who submitted physical box tops and those who have started to use the new app during this first submission period! Physical Box Tops are being phased out, so download the app and start scanning those receipts! November was a big month for our whole community. The Boosterthon Fun Run Fundraiser came to Wrentham and was HUGELY successful. Our goal was to raise \$40,000 for a new Roderick playground and we smashed that goal by almost \$10,000. The students did their big run on Friday November 15 and everyone had a great day! Pledging is open through November 20, so it is not too late to donate and earn some prizes! We had three very successful Spirit Shops in November. This resulted in us selling out of many of our popular items, BUT we just got word that new stock, including new t-shirts and sweatshirts, will be in by Thanksgiving! Come see us at the Turkeywhacker 5K on Thanksgiving morning to grab this new gear or on December 5 during evening conferences. Finally, speaking of conferences, we are again offering FREE BABYSITTING in conjunction with the Wrentham/Plainville Girl Scouts. Children ages 4 and up are welcome to be dropped off with the Girl Scouts and their leaders in the Vogel auditorium between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. while you meet with teachers. Hope to see you there! The PTO would like to thank everyone in our community for their support this fall!

WEST Update by WEST President Katelyn Gallo

Back by popular demand, **WEST** is hosting another Lip Sync Battle on Saturday February 8 at the Franklin Country Club. You do not want to miss a great night of music and fun all while supporting your child's education! Tickets will be available soon on our [website](#).

WEST raises donations independently through fundraising, business sponsorships, tax-deductible donations and corporate matching. Wrentham elementary teachers then apply for grants for innovative projects and programs. These projects are an important part of the educational process but fall outside current school budgets. **WEST** has funded grants in all grade levels, so every student benefits. Check out the [Sensory Path](#) along with all the grants funded last year and be on the lookout for our newsletter coming soon! Always feel free to reach out to volunteer, donate, or share new ideas to <mailto:info@wrenthamwest.org>.

Turkeywacker 5K Race

The second annual Turkeywacker 5K is taking place on Thanksgiving morning. The creator and organizer of the race is our own PE teacher Adam Moon. The race takes place at the William Rice Complex, 54 Emerald Street, Wrentham, at 8:00 a.m. [Please click here for more details](#). Costumes not required (but they are fun!). My family will not attend this year because we are traveling for the holiday; however, we will be there in spirit!

Objective 3: Ensure the Schools and Grounds are Safe and Conducive to Learning

Energy Efficiencies in the District

We completed two major projects to help reduce the district's energy consumption, improve conditions within the buildings, and save money. First, we replaced all light bulbs in the district with LEDs. The new LEDs use much less electricity, which saves energy and money. Second, we replaced the heating control system and valves in Delaney School. The new control system and valves allow us to closely monitor and adjust the heat in each room.

School Safety Update

Sergeant Morris of the Wrentham Police Department led the district's annual safety training. He reviewed our emergency procedures and led us through a realistic and beneficial training experience. We discussed the new [Raptor](#) visitor check-in system and the [Visiplex](#) school emergency notification system. The district Safety Committee will meet this winter to talk about future training and drills. Please email Superintendent Allan Cameron at camerona@wrenthamschools.org if you have any safety questions or concerns.

Roderick School Playground

Fundraising for the new Roderick School playground is in full swing! The PTO supported Boosterthon Fun Run raised \$50,000 toward our goal of \$250,000. Thank you for your support! We hope to have a larger, safer, fun, and accessible playground at Roderick School by the 2021 school year. [Please click here to see a picture of the new playground and learn about our fundraising effort](#).

Weather Related School Delays and Closings

We are gearing-up for another snowy New England winter, which may mean school closings or delays. I will only close or delay school if the conditions are unsafe. I will coordinate with the superintendents of King Philip, Norfolk, and Plainville to minimize disruption for families. Whenever possible, I will make the decision to close or delay school the evening before or by 5:30 a.m. I will call and email you when I close or delay the start of school. I will also alert local television stations.

Closing Thought

Thank you for reading the *Superintendent's Bulletin*! I cannot believe how quickly the first part of the school year flew by. I am excited to continue working with you for the good of our students and community. My family (from left to right, Lucy, Annie, Robert, Scotty, and Rocky) and I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a safe and fun winter. Please look for the next *Superintendent's Bulletin* in March.

